

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1819.

[No. 246]

General Summary of News.

ASIA.

Ceylon.—The Ceylon Gazette of the 16th of October has reached us, but it contains no local information of interest. Private Letters from the same quarter, and of the same date, inform us, however, of a very melancholy circumstance which has taken place there; and which, for the sake of greater accuracy, we shall mention in one of our Correspondent's own words, though we shall omit the mention of the names of the parties, under the hope that the intention of the act at least may have been prematurely pronounced on.

'A most melancholy circumstance lately happened in the South of the Island, Mr. ——— Collector of ——— has been charged with the Murder of a Native, the act, on examination, being believed to have been deliberate. The object of his passion was a poor Native headman, who being ordered to procure coconuts for his palanquin, was unable to find a sufficient number. Mr. ——— obliged the man to assist in carrying the palanquin himself, although contrary to his caste and situation. After proceeding some distance with it, he fell down, upon which Mr. ——— got out and beat him severely; he then proceeded a short distance farther, when falling a second time, Mr. ——— got out and beat him again, although the man told him he was dying. He lived for a few hours, during which time the Magistrate Mr. ——— coming up to him, the poor man deposed before him, that he was in perfect health in the morning, and had not been ill for some years previous to this.

The Magistrate being a Friend of the Collector, concealed the circumstance, and wrote privately to the ——— about it, who also concealed it. The circumstance, however, at last came to the ears of the Puisne Judge, who communicated it to the Governor. By the Governor's order, the Magistrate was immediately discharged from his office, and an escort of soldiers sent to bring Mr. ——— to Colombo in custody. It is the general opinion here that if Mr. ——— should be fully convicted, he will suffer the punishment awarded by the law for such a crime without respect to his situation. This is the more distressing, as he is said to be in all respects a very amiable young man.

Our Correspondent adds that General Sir R. Brownrigg, will go home about the beginning of the next year, when Lieutenant General Barnes will succeed to the Government of the Island; and that however justly satisfied they may be with their new Governor, their present one will carry with him the regret of all the Island.

Bombay.—From the Bombay Gazette of the 27th of October, which reached us yesterday, we obtain the following information:—

The following is the proposed allotment of Troops for embarkation, destined to the Persian Gulf, under the Command of Major General Sir William Grant Keir. K. M. T.

Ships' Names.	KING'S TROOPS.	Tons.	Officers.	Men.	Followers.
Hannab,	{ Engineers, Artillery and Commis- } sary of Stores,	462	9	108	226
Ann,	His Majesty's 47th Regiment, &c.	531	10	201	142
Jessy,	His Majesty's 47th Regiment, &c.	340	6	92	101
Orpheus,	His Majesty's 47th Regiment, &c.	416	7	190	67
Jemima,	His Majesty's 47th Regiment, &c.	444	8	170	53
Glenelg,	His Majesty's 65th Regiment, &c.	810	15	300	174
Bombay Castle,	His Majesty's 65th Regiment, &c.	582	9	230	118
Pascoa,	His Majesty's 65th Regiment, &c.	732	11	284	130
NATIVE TROOPS.					
Diana,	Native Infantry,	506	6	206	198
Ebnad,	Native Infantry,	550	8	300	67
Faiz Ramanee,	Native Infantry,	465	6	206	188
Angelica,	Native Infantry,	356	4	176	101
Caron,	Flank Company,	451	8	198	90
Cornwall,	11th or Marine Battalion,	428	7	190	91
Francis Warden,	Pioneers, &c.	410	2	101	13
	Horses,				20

Some of the Transports are already below the middle ground, and it is supposed that the Troops will embark on the 29th and 30th, and that they will proceed immediately to the place of their destination.

The Agents of Transports, that accompany this Expedition, are Lieutenants C. Searight and G. B. Brucks, of the Hon'ble Company's Marine.

Letters from the Gulf, mention that the Honorable Company's Cruiser Psyche, Captain Guy, had chased on shore and burnt a Pirate vessel of considerable force.

Captain Sadlier had joined Ibrahim Pasha, and proceeded with him on the pilgrimage to Mecca, from whence he proceeds to Judda, to embark for India. His reception by Ibrahim is stated to have been every thing that could be wished.

We understand that Mr. Elphinstone left Poonah on Monday, and that he is expected to reach the Presidency this evening.

During the three days that the Treasury was open for Bills on Bengal, at the Exchange of 107 for 100 Sicea Rupees, we are informed that no less than 30 Lacs of Rupees were received.

Though we have seen some Armenian Military Officers, and indeed understand that in the Russian Army there are many who have attained the rank of Generals, and hold the most distinguished offices under the Russian Government, yet it has but lately come to our notice that they had ever reached to any professional skill in Navigation. We were therefore very agreeably surprized a few weeks since by an introduction to a Gentleman of that nation who is a proficient in the Mathematics, and who at present is in the command of an Arab Ship. This Gentleman had a large collection of Books, amongst them several treatises on Navigation, in the Armenian character, printed at Venice in 1809.

The Fama, a Portuguese Ship which left Bombay in December last, for Goa and the Brazils, was forced into Mosambique, by adverse winds and storms, where it was found necessary to unload her, and on examination it was resolved she should proceed to Bombay, to be repaired. With this intention she quitted Mosambique on the 24th of September in company with the St. John Baptist, a Brig of War, but proved so leaky that on the 1st of September, the crew were forced to abandon her and take refuge on board of the Brig, who landed them at Zanguebar all safe, with the exception of the Captain, Chaplain, and a Lady passenger, who arrived at Goa, in the brig a few days since.

A new ship of 550 Tons was to be launched at Damaun, 'on the next springs, and to be added to the Tonnage of Bombay.

The Bussorah Merchant, Humphries, from Muscat, the 10th October, anchored at Bombay on the 23d, and the Honorable Company Cruiser Vastal, on the 24th.

A few days ago, Mohammed Ali Khan, gave a Grand Nauteh, to his Excellency, Sir Evan Nepean, and also another to Sir William Grant Keir. We are aware that those kind of entertainments are not very gratifying to our countrymen in general, yet on the present occasion the hearty welcome, and tout ensemble, went far to dispense any ennui. Coffee, Tea, and Hookahs of many descriptions were handed about, and Attar and Rose water were dispensed with an unsparing hand, whilst the Syrens, to the utter discomfiture of many a grave Mullah, commenced their strains; the Ghazels of Hafiz and Sadi were succeeded by Gecs and Tappas of a more modern date, and were kept up till a late hour.

Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, and Ball and Supper to the Settlement of Bombay.

On the evening of the 21st of October, Captains Collier and Walpole, of his Majesty's Ship Liverpool and Curlew, anxious to repay the hospitality they have experienced during their stay at this place, gave a Ball and Supper at the Admiralty House to their numerous friends, and at the same time celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. The House afforded an admirable suite of rooms, which were all thrown open for the oc-

banquet, the floor was tastefully chalked with appropriate devices, the *King's and Company's Crests and Mottos, Trafalgar and Victory*, were the most conspicuous. The company being all assembled, country dances went through several successive sets, and were succeeded by Quadrilles. About 12 the company retired to the supper rooms, which had been most tastefully fitted up, on the terrace, by an amateur, whose health during the supper, was drank with loud applause.

On this terrace (transformed into a fairy scene by the help of flags of all nations and variegated lamps) the supper tables were laid out à la *Chinoise*, and covered with all the delicacies our Island affords. Wit and good humour presided, and rising under the proud standard of Great Britain, Mr. Warden gave the neat and appropriate speech, alluded to by our brother Editor, when the healths of Captains Collier and Walpole, were drank with an overwhelming enthusiasm, with three times three, to the national air of "Rule Britannia."

The ball room had, however, most attraction; and the merry dance was resumed and kept up till an early hour.

It is almost unnecessary for us to state that the Ball was attended by all the Beauty and Fashion of our little Island, and the guests departed with sensations of heartfelt gratitude for the amusement and attention they had received from their kind entertainers.

Kutch.—Letters from Booj, mention the actual appearance of the Joasmees on that coast, and entertain apprehensions of their supplies being cut off by them. We apprehend the letter alluded to was written before the *Antelope*, and her two little attendants had reached their destination; for we consider the apprehended danger at an end, and that their Cheese, Beer, and Hams, will reach them in safety.

A subsequent Letter mentions that the Pirate Fleet consists of 64 Vessels, with about 7000 men.

At Bhooj, on Monday the 11th of October, the Officers of the Mess of the 1st Battalion 9th Regiment entertained the Commanding Officer of the Field Force, Lieutenant Colonel Milnes, C. B. previous to his departure from Bombay, having resigned his Command to proceed with his Regiment on the intended Expedition to the Persian Gulf; the Mess were also honoured with the company of the Resident, Captain McMurdo, together with all the Officers of the Force. The utmost hilarity prevailed, and for want of better music, the Drums of the Corps were in waiting. Amongst many others, the following toasts were drank with three times three.

Lieutenant Colonel Milnes, C. B. and may success and honor attend him wherever he goes, — *British Grenadiers*.

Lieutenant Colonel Burr, C. B. and the Heroes of Kirkee, — *Grenadier's March*.

Lieutenant Colonel Prother, C. B. our late respected Commandant, — *1st Grenadier's 9th Regiment Quick Step*.

Captain McMurdo, the Resident, — *Quick Step*.

General Baillie, and the Battalion of Artillery, — *March*.

Major Gilber, and the Officers of the 1st Battalion 5th Regiment, — *Quick Step*.

The evening concluded with some excellent Songs, and when "the Rosy Morn," "with early blushes spread," broke forth resplendent, the party separated.

Baroda, Oct 18.—The Installation of Syjee Row, younger brother of the late Anund Row Guicawar, to the vacant Musnud took place yesterday. A Royal Salute was fired from the British Residency on the occasion.

Thus, through the commanding influence of a paramount protecting power, has Syjee Row taken undisturbed possession of the throne of his ancestors, without which there is every reason to think, great opposition would have been made, owing to a prevailing opinion, as to the legitimacy of his birth. It is to be regretted, that, no officers from Contonments were invited to attend the above mentioned interesting ceremony, as it is but natural to infer the young Sovereign would have been highly flattered, by the presence of the few Officers present with the B. S. F.—The late Rajah has left very considerable personal property, amounting to the value of more than Two Crores of Rupees, it is said, in money and jewels, and the distribution of which, has been the theme of anxious discussions among the female branches of the Guicawar's family, but which will no doubt be disposed of as the wisdom of our Government may suggest, altho' that may not exactly meet the wishes of these sable Dames.

Burka.—The following notice of Burka in 1810, has been communicated to the Editor of the Bombay Gazette, from whence this is taken:—

Burka is a town in Arabia, in Latitude 23° 41' N. belonging to the Imam of Muscat and where the Imam sometimes resides; the town is long and straggling along the shore, and may be a mile in length, amidst groves of date trees, almost the only ones you see. A castle, of pretty large dimensions stands not far from the beach, which bore marks of its recent investiture by having many a shot mark on the plaster; about six months ago, it was attacked by some of the Joasmees pirates who made them

come down something handsome. Provisions of most kind, are plentiful and cheap, and we got here better as good as that of Cambridge. We picked up a very few shells on the beach; only one good one, a univalve of a beautiful orange colour; there is a great surf on the beach when it blows hard, and the ground in the roadstead, is loose, so that ships often drive; the anchorage is in 5, 6, or 7 fathoms, 2 or 3 miles off shore; we were at anchor in 7 fathoms; the town South 3 miles; an Arab ship of 600 tons more than a mile within us. Latitude observed 23-43 and Longitude 57-54½ by Lunar. From hence Muscat bears E. 7° S. distance about 14 or 15 leagues.

We saw nothing within 2 or 3 miles behind Burka, but a sandy plain, producing the date tree, in profusion, but scarcely any other kind of vegetation visible, though this place is the garden of the Imam's possessions; and here may daily be seen the Arab in all his pride, free, and uncontrolled as the air he breathes, galloping his charger across the plain, in all the glow of independence; every Soldier has here his attendant or sword bearer.

The Castle is not unlike that of Colchester, the Warder at his post and the Guard at the Gate, the Keep, the Bastion, and the Curtain, reminded us of the Feudal times in our own country.

Madras, Nov. 2.—We are at length deriving benefit from the Monsoon Season, in the fall of a copious quantity of rain. Since Saturday the rains have been almost incessant, but not violent. Some heavy squalls were experienced on Saturday night, and Sunday morning, and the following night; and the wind has at times blown strong from the North West and North East quarters, but upon the whole the Monsoon has set in very mildly this season. The only vessel in the Roads is a Dhony laden with Rice.

By the public notification from the Post Master General, which we have already published, it will be observed that letters for Europe will be forwarded until the 16th proximo, by Dawk to Calcutta, to be conveyed thence by the first Ship sailing from that Presidency, on payment here of the full inland postage. After the present week, however, little advantage will be gained by this plan, as we know that homeward bound Ships may be expected to touch here, if not in this, early in the next month.

The awful sentence of the law was carried into execution yesterday evening at 4 o'clock, upon an unfortunate malefactor named Rottekara Vencatchellum, who it will be remembered was convicted at the late Sessions of an aggravated case of burglary. An immense concourse of Natives attended the shocking and degrading ceremony, and we trust this necessary infliction of punishment will have a due effect upon the burglarious miscreants who continue to infest this Settlement. We fear however, something more is necessary to check the constant depredations which of late years have been committed at this Settlement by burglary. Even since the conclusion of the late Session of Oyer and Terminer, we have heard of one case of this description of an aggravated nature.

The Dinner at the Race Stand on Saturday was very numerously attended by the Friends of the Turf, notwithstanding the very unfavorable state of the weather. Upwards of sixty Gentlemen assembled on this occasion. The Dinner, Wines and every thing relating thereto were of the first order; but what we were principally pleased at observing, was the determined spirit of zeal manifested by the meeting to revive this most noble and manly sport.

Mendyghaut.—Extract of a letter dated Mendyghaut, 8th November, 1819:—The cold begins to set in pretty intensely. The Kharuf crop is getting in, and has been favorable; the Grain still keeps high, owing to the native monopolisers, not to any scarcity. Cotton also is high, and the nominal price kept up, tho' there are few or no purchasers. The Indigo has in general not yielded above half the estimated quantity, and among several planters not so much, owing to the lateness of the rains setting in, and the cold weather coming on so soon.

Every thing betokens a most promising crop of the Rubbee, unless the frost damages a part.

Grain is only 12 seers per rupee, 96 wt.	Wheat . . . 14 seers per rupee, 86 wt.
Barley . . . 17 seers per rupee, 96 wt.	Paddy . . . 27 seers per rupee,
Badgeron . . 20 seers per rupee, 96 wt.	Oord, (Mash) 19 seers per rupee,

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Chunar.—Our latest letters from hence extend to the 15th instant; but convey no particular information. One of the 17th, has the following passage:

"Since my last address, the weather has been very cloudy and threatening, and it has rained constantly for these eight hours past. The present crop is too far advanced towards maturity, to sustain any injury, and the seed which is in the ground must benefit by it, but the ground which has been prepared for sowing, may require to be ploughed again; it is to be hoped, however, that it may clear up.—A few cases of Cholera have come to my notice within these three days.—Our Church is nearly finished, and several Schools for the instruction of the Native Youth, have been established through the indefatigable exertions of our worthy and much esteemed Pastor."

Calcutta.—On Friday the 19th instant, a Meeting was held at the Town Hall, by the principal Members of the Society, to determine on the arrangements for a splendid Entertainment to be given to the Marchioness of Hastings, by the Settlement.

The description of Entertainment chosen, was a Fancy Dress Ball, and Supper, at which Masks are to be admitted; and the evening fixed on for its being given, is Tuesday the 7th of December.

The following Gentlemen have been appointed as President, Vice Presidents, and Stewards:

PRESIDENT—Mr. LARKINS.

Vice Presidents.

Mr. Spankie, | Mr. Goad,
Mr. Pattie, | Sir C. D'Oyly, Bt.

Stewards.

Mr. Fendall, Commodore Hayes, Mr. Young, Major M. Browne, Mr. D. Clark, Mr. H. Shakespear, Major Taylor,	Captain Gilbert Captain A Lindsay Mr. Hogg, Major Bryant, Mr. L. A. Davidson, Captain Lockett,	Mr. Morly, Mr. Jameson, Captain Patrickson, Mr. W. Princep, Major Sackville, Mr. N. Alexander, Mr. J. H. D'Oyly.
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From these, a Committee of Decorations has been formed; and all the necessary subdivisions of taste, talent, and activity, attended to, in order to give efficiency to the joint labours of those who have the honour to superintend the arrangements on this occasion.

We may add, for general information, that all applications on the part of those who desire to participate in the Subscription to this Entertainment, should be addressed to some one of the Gentlemen named above.

We happen to have immediately before us, a description of a very gay party, held in London, at the latter end of June last, from a late English Paper; and as it may furnish some useful hints, besides being in itself entertaining, we have thought we could not do better than place it here.

Masquerade.—Foreigners talk copiously of the "tristesse" of England, and seem actually to think it a national crime, that a man may be sad or sorry within the circuit of London. In Paris he certainly has opportunities of ready vice and cheap idleness superior to ours. We can shew no theatres at two pence for a seat in the boxes; no gambling tables where the stakeholder and the thief exchange farthing against farthing; and no Palais Royale for the general mart of prodigality and profligacy—from the highest bidder down to the most shirtless slave of filth and folly. So far we are behind our brilliant neighbours in the race of national delight and degradation, and so far we may be content to suffer their sneering supremacy. But for the general and allowable purposes of public amusement we seem to be amply supplied. We have theatres of all capacities and composition. They tower over our churches in the city; they make vigorous head against the conventicles in the suburbs: and fighting side by side with the alehouse, or rather attended regularly by a little ministrant troop of alehouses, they are likely to beat them in point of number, though they may despair of equalling those resorts of mirth and muddling in point of popularity. The Masquerade is, however, a rarer delight; it comes, as Campbell has stolen it from Blair,

"Like angel visits, few and far between;"

or like a comet, with brief and periodic splendour; or like the King's speech, a display that never dazzles our faculties, or disturbs his above twice in a year; or like news of Bonaparte's escape, revived by instalments to invigorate the newspapers, and wave phantoms of full pay before the half pay; or like the intelligence of Capricies, on the Lake of Como, big with visions of a new marriage and a happy procreation; or like the Persian ambassador, foreseen for months together, watched in his slow advance through the calendar and the Continent, at length hailed as the expansion of new wonders, in the shape of embroidered gowns, Arab horses, and Circassians "the fairest of the fair." But of all that is mortal, the most general truth is, that it passes away; that the hour, expected with whatever impatience, has its beginning, middle, and end, is another valuable truth; and perhaps the most solid consideration of the three is, that those who expect the most, are the most liable to be disappointed even in a Masquerade.

That given on Thursday was certainly an extremely well-arranged entertainment. It was, as the bills had portended, divided into two parts: the former, an evening rout, in the concert-room, where all the charms of coffee and chalked floors, song and syllabus, pandean pipes and potions of tea, were in wait for the fascination of the gallant and the fair. The orchestra had been suddenly fabricated into a theatre—and while the eye revelled among lamps and landscapes, umbrageous groves, and glittering luminaries, the ear drank in the more dangerous delights of some very clever catches and glees, infinitely heightened, of course, to the imagination by the mysterious masquing of the singers. The audience were kept in the dark as to the names of these distinguished distributors of harmony; but mystery has of old been a source of the sublime; and they were at liberty to imagine Catalani and Diekons, Miss Stephens's fat physiognomy, and Miss Hughes's spectral distortion, under every pasteboard envelope. At the opposite end of the apartment, tables were laid with re-

freshments, which, more to the credit of the waiters, than of Mr. Waud—the cook, were handed forth with great readiness, and exhausted with fatal rapidity. The cook probably contemplated the danger of dancing with a full stomach, and was penurious out of simple precaution. After the tables were cleared—an operation of indescribable celerity—the songs expended, and the chalked floor rubbed into white confusion, the company poured like a torrent into the grand saloon, formed of the pit and stage of the theatre floored over, and unquestionably making, with its lights and scenery, its gilded boxes and its gay multitude, a very striking and curious show. Crowds continued to set in, till it was high tide in this mighty expanse: and if plumes were billows, no tide could be fuller of glittering and rolling agitation. The spirit of motion seemed to have usurped the place of every other but the spirit of Babel. To converse was impossible, where all was clamour; to walk was dangerous where all was tumult; and to dance, was to run the hazard of being buried in the eddy of some outrageous waltz, and disappear, never more to be flung up again without fracture. Still the more adventurous natures, danced; and three Virgins of the Sun, whose vows seemed to sit as lightly upon their consciences as their veils upon their shoulders, followed by three Graces, who obviously thought that perfect beauty should suffer no concealment, waltzed their triumphant way completely round the theatre.

The masks were in great profusion and absurdity; the whole colluvies of lame harlequins, voiceless ballad singers, faded flower girls, speechless barristers, and amatory quakers, rolled thick and deep from end to end of the room. But there were a few masks sufficiently curious. The blowing of a cracked horn announced a bulletin of Bonaparte's arrival from St. Helena, to marry one of the princesses; and in a short time the hero himself appeared with two or three ragged aides-de-camp, dressed in a capital style of ostentatious beggary. Napoleon was in high spirits, and received the congratulations of the company with matchless condescension—the attendant officers offering cockades of paper as bride favours, and promising provinces to every one who had the happiness to get near enough to kiss his imperial hand. In the course of his march, he was accosted by the Duke of Wellington; and the renowned rivals, after a moment's natural amaze at each other, seemed to meet with heroic cordiality, but the crowd gathered too closely round them for us to have a chance of hearing diplomatic secrets. A mask, with a military hat over a mitre, and a chancellor's wig in one hand, attracted a concourse. Its coat was black, painted over with flames; it had a bull upon its breast, and distributed hand-bills recommending Catholic emancipation. A fat female, in the Circassian costume, with a crown upon her turban, and the seat of her trowsers mounted with a lion rampant, was the next candidate for celebrity—two or three Hussars, whiskered to the eyes, with a monk and a mountebank were in her suite, and she sang a parody on the mad maid's song "My lodging is on the cold ground."—Alderman Walthman, complaining that the House coughed whenever he spoke, which he called giving him a cold reception, and vowing that by some new measures he would turn Mr. Vansittart out of the Exchequer, though, for his part, he thought there was no comfort in being in it, was very humorous. A fellow carrying a seat on his shoulder, with a worn-out broom stuck through it, and singing some Foolery about the Opposition, excited great laughter. But we must leave the further commemoration to others, and can now merely allude to one of the latest masques that seemed to attract notice: it was a Hussar, with a leg tied up, covered over with paper-stars and tape-strings; he came in with two showy women, singing, "How happy could I be with either;" and after a short time, distributed a ballad, which he sang with great humour. The ballad was the coarsest doggerel. The room was well attended by bands, military and pandean. Supper was served at one, and was about enough for one-tenth of its eaters.

Supreme Court.

Presentment of the Grand Jury at the close of the Present Sessions.

The Grand Jury have now completed their investigation of all the indictments and other matters that have been brought before them this Sessions; they desire, however, before taking their discharge from the bench, to bring to notice an abuse which they have been informed is general, and of the existence of which, in one particular instance, they have had a means of satisfying themselves by personal examination of the parties interested.

It would seem that the farmers and other holders of what were originally Government bazars, have assumed a right of demanding, under the name of Tuhbazaree, a certain amount from all persons carrying forth, or merely passing with goods within certain limits, and they include within those limits, the public streets and highways, claiming the right of stopping persons carrying goods along them, in order to ascertain whether they are going for sale, that they may in such case levy the exaction.

The Grand Jury have ascertained this practice to be unwarranted by any authority conveyed by Government to the holders of these bazars, and they find, moreover, that so far back as in the year 1788, upon its being discovered that bazar farmers were in the habit of collecting an impost of this description, it was specially forbidden, and the farmers were further bound over in a penalty not to "continue or suffer a continuance of these collections in future."

The occurrence in question is stated at length in the third volume of Mr. Harrington's *Elementary Analysis of the Laws and Regulations of this Presidency*; a work recently published, but of undoubted authority on this point, for the author was himself officiating as Collector of Calcutta at the time the prohibition issued, and instrumental in giving it effect.

Notwithstanding the steps thus early taken to put down these exactions, and the certainty that Government has never by any subsequent act revived or given authority for the levying of what was then prohibited, the abuse would seem still to exist. It came out before the Grand Jury that an impost of the exact nature of that prohibited, was demanded on the part of an under farmer of the Bura bazar, who asserted his right to levy it. His principal having been summoned, likewise claimed the right, declaring it to be exercised by all holders of public bazars, and inherent in the terms on which the bazars were derived by them from Government. It would hence appear that the farmers themselves are either not sufficiently aware of the practice having been forbidden, or designedly affect ignorance, with a view to perpetuate the exaction.

The Grand Jury, however, having no doubt of its being illegal and unwarrantable in the bazar-holders, to make any demand from persons passing along the highways and public streets of the town, whether on account of Tubbazaree, or on any other pretext have deemed it advisable to make the subject matter of direct presentment, in order that publicity may be given to the opinion entertained by them in regard to it, and that the farmers, and other holders of these bazars, may be warned of the consequences of persevering in the practice of such an abuse.

The Grand Jury wish to be distinctly understood, as not intending to declare the levying of all manner of Tubbazaree to be in their opinion illegal, but merely as alluding to that particular impost which is levied in public streets and highways in the mode described.

This in fact they do not conceive to be legitimately comprehended in the meaning of the term applied to it: for the Tubbazaree is literally the consideration taken by the proprietor of ground laid out as a bazar, for the use made of that ground by the vendors of wares; such persons finding their advantage in resorting to the place thus prepared and set apart, for the purpose of exposing their goods to sale therein, readily pay the consideration asked in lieu of this advantage. When, indeed, markets used to be held on certain days in the public streets, the Tubbazaree was levied from those who occupied them in exposing their wares in the same manner as it is now taken in the bazars, but this custom has long since been done away, and the use of the streets for the purpose absolutely prohibited; consequently, the pretence for levying Tubbazaree in the streets can no longer exist, and, at all events, it would be demandable only from those who might erect a stall or the like, and on no account from mere passengers proceeding elsewhere with their goods, whether for sale or otherwise.

There is another subject noticed in the charge received by the Grand Jury from the bench, in regard to which they desire to offer a few remarks, and that is the notoriety of great abuses being practised by the native police-officers of this city. One charge of the kind, in which two of the inferior European agents of police are included, has been brought by private Bill before the Grand Jury, and the indictment having been found, the case will be brought to trial in regular course.

The public may rest assured that the Grand Jury will always be disposed to give to any cases of this nature, that may be brought forward by individuals, the most patient and attentive consideration in their power. But it must be obvious, that the check to abuse in this department, that is likely to result from the opinion possessed by individuals of applying to the Grand Jury for redress, must afford very inadequate security, and that the main reliance of the public must always be in the executive magistracy.

The Grand Jury are at the same time fully sensible of the degree in which the exertions of the magistracy are continually directed to the control of their inferior ministerial agents, and as the employment of native officers is an unavoidable part of the system of police adopted, they are disposed to make every allowance for the difficulty which must be experienced in ascertaining and eradicating abuses, which it is the interest of so many to keep concealed by all manner of means.

It occurs, however, to the Grand Jury, that much of the abuse that prevails will arise from the undefined nature of the power possessed by the native police-officers, and the consequent ignorance of the public at all times, whether they are acting in the ordinary course of duty, or abusing their authority for other purposes, under the pretence of official exertion. In so far as the abuses complained of may arise from this cause, the Grand Jury conceive, that an effectual remedy might be provided, by giving publicity to any rules that may now be in force to regulate the general powers and duties of police-officers, or if there should be none such already prepared in a form to be made available for public information, by causing a body of rules to be drawn up and printed in the English and Bengally languages for general circulation.

The Grand Jury offer this merely as a suggestion for the consideration of the bench, and they do not desire that it should go further, unless your Lordships should concur in thinking there would be advantage in recommending the plan for adoption.

(Signed) G. CRUTTENDEN,
Foreman to the Grand Jury.

Calcutta Library Society.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I believe that you, as well as many others, are not aware of the existence of an Institution here, which from its utility needs only to be known to be admired: I allude to the Calcutta Library Society. It was formerly, I understand, denominated the Literary Society, a name I must confess it scarcely merited, as the efforts of the Society have hitherto been limited to the procuring of Books; and thus, though it may fairly aspire to the office of a pillar in the Temple of Science, it cannot reasonably arrogate to itself the sanctity of a shrine; but as somebody sublimely sings, that great events arise from little things, so have I no doubt that the Society will ultimately merit that title once unadvisedly bestowed upon it. Our present designation is certainly entitled to the praise of modesty; but I question the expediency of having changed the old name, as it might have stimulated the members to endeavour to deserve it. A Catalogue of the Books contained in the Library has just been published, the number of which is very respectable, considering the short period that has elapsed since its first establishment.

I believe, that any one wishing to know the nature of the Institution, may procure a Catalogue at the Rooms of the Library, in which the rules of the Society, the number of its members, and other circumstances connected with it, are detailed.

I really entertain great hopes that the period is not far distant when the Society will be enabled to assume a higher character than it at present holds. The funds were some time ago in so depressed a state as almost to threaten the ruin of the Society, but the "never-too-much-to-be-applauded liberality of some of the proprietors snatched it from impending ruin; and rescued it from the degradation of debt; and the acquisition of a considerable number of new members lately has at all events made it regain its wonted state; but this is not sufficient. Though out of debt (I wish I was, Mr. Editor) the resources of the Library are still far too limited to enable us to carry into effect those plans which literary enthusiasm inspires, but which, like several castles, tumble down to the ground without solid material assistance.

The Society have procured from the liberality of the Managers of the Town Hall the use of a room formerly appropriated to comfits, cakes, and candelabras, which will answer all the intentions of the Society; and should we meet with more general assistance and encouragement, I have no doubt but scientific discussions, where the feast of reason and the flow of soul (however Mr. Gunter may disapprove of such eating and drinking) will result from our removal to a place so calculated to promote them.

I have heard that Bonaparte, *pervis componere magna*, though not himself a great admirer or perhaps judge of the Fine Arts, constantly and warmly encouraged them as tending to promote the happiness of his people, and turn their minds from too close an examination into his own conduct; and I candidly acknowledge, that though he did not understand or relish them, yet thousands did; so would I exhort those who are not proprietors in the Calcutta Library Society, because they cannot read (or rather have not the time to do so) to recollect, that they promote the reading of others; and let others recollect, that had they been employed in reading our Books, they would not have bawled so loudly about the Vestry Question, misunderstood by ten out of eleven.

The Society are not soliciting support,—they are above it,—they do not need it,—but an increase in its funds would enable them to realize those views which the Institution is calculated to call forth and promote, and on that account alone are they anxious for encouragement from a Public where every thing but literature appears to meet with patronage and support; for in the Capital of British India their exists less enthusiasm for the promotion of knowledge than in the smaller presidencies of Madras and Bombay, nay at the Military stations of Mhow and Cawnpore, there exists a zeal in these matters highly creditable to them, and proportionably disgraceful to us. At the former stations, I understand 32,000 rupees were subscribed for the establishment of a Library, and at the latter place 18,000.

What shame, what woe, to Greece,—what joy
To Troy's proud monarch and the friends of Troy.

Let then Calcutta do away with this reproach; let every one who is painfully conscious of having neglected to support the Society, retrieve his error, appease his conscience, and gratify the feelings of his soul, by flying to the Town Hall, any time next month, where we will receive him with open arms, and glad heart, upon the condition of his paying down 200 rupees (Sicca) for our first paternal embrace, and 8 rupees monthly for a continuance of our cordiality to him.

I am, Sir, Your's, with great esteem.

November 20, 1819.

ZENO.

Present State of Calcutta.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Allow me, through the medium of your Journal, to call the attention of the Public, to the present state of the Port of Calcutta, when compared with what it was in the year 1757, and the necessity which exists for the adoption of some measures to prevent the River Hooghly from becoming at a future period innavigable to the Ships which are at present able to visit the Port.

It is recorded in Orme's History of Hindoostan, that a ship of 20 guns was carried up to the attack of the Fort of Hooghly, on the 10th of February, 1757, and that three Ships, carrying respectively 64 guns, 60 guns, and 50 guns, were carried up to Chandernagore, between the 20th and 23d of March, of the same year, a period when the River is always at its lowest height.

I am not acquainted with what the actual depth of water was in the Hooghly River, between Calcutta and Chandernagore, in March last; but I am persuaded that no Ship of 64 guns could have proceeded up to Chandernagore then, and I doubt very much if a Ship even of 20 guns could have been carried up to the attack of that Factory. If the past 62 years should have made such a difference in the state of the River, it may be worth the attention of the great Mercantile body of Calcutta, and more particularly of the Government, to take every precautionary measure to prevent the future accumulation of the sands, which, by raising the bottom of the River, have caused the alteration; for if nothing is done, the causes which have operated during the past 62 years, may be expected to continue their slow and sure effects, and in a like period of time, the Port of Calcutta may be closed altogether.

The River Hooghly during the day season, resembles more a deep inlet of the Sea than a River; the waters that flow into it, during this season, through the Cossimbazar, the Jellingay, and the Scharmutty, are reduced to trifling streams, and convey from the Ganges scarcely any water. Every work therefore which may have a tendency to encroach on an inlet of the Sea, of equal extent, may be supposed to have a like effect on the River Hooghly; and if the waters of the Cossimbazar, the Jellingay, and the Scharmutty, were banked up altogether, which might be easily done in the dry season, the navigation to the Port of Calcutta would depend entirely on the flow of the tides.

Mr. Smeaton, who was supposed to have been the most eminent Civil Engineer that our country ever had, lays it down as an undeviating principle, that every work which obstructs the flow of water in Rivers, however trifling the quantity, causes a deposit of sand, in proportion to the quantity of water, which is by the work prevented from freely flowing, in it, and which is driven into other channels. If Mr. Smeaton is correct in the assumption of the above principles, what must not be the effect of the numerous works, which are yearly constructing on the sides of the River Hooghly, and on the banks of the Cossimbazar River, of a temporary and lasting nature?

The rains no sooner subside than the fishermen are allowed to extend all across the River, their wears or bamboo fences, to prevent the fish from proceeding towards the Sea; the rich Native, whose principal dwelling-house is on the River-side, takes advantage of the summer season to project out into the River his Puckah Ghaut; the European, and proprietors of the ground, on the banks of the River, near to Calcutta, extend their Puckah Ghauts, at the same season, and secure as much land as they can take from the River, by the continuation of Puckah Wharfs of a sufficient substance to resist the tides in the River; the wealthy Native, whose residence is at a distance from the River, through religious motives, takes advantage of the season to erect a Pagoda, with a Puckah Ghaut extending into the stream; and last of all the Government repairs the Bunds, which the waters of the Ganges may have injured, and takes means to prevent future encroachments.

All these works, whether of a temporary or more durable nature, prevent the natural flow of the waters from the Ganges; and such of them as are constructed within the tides-way, prevent the flux and re-flux of the sea, and permit the accumulation of sand during the dry season of the year. Such of them as are of a durable nature, and project from the natural banks of the River, by occupying space which would otherwise be left for the water to flow in, forces so much of it into other channels, and tends to prevent the Ganges from emptying so large a proportion of its waters, during the rains, into the Sea, through the Hooghly, as would, under other circumstances, take place.

Your readers need only to inspect the point of any Puckah Wharf or Ghaut, constructed purposely to resist the effects of the tide on it, to be convinced how injurious such works are to the navigation of the River, and they will observe an accumulation of sand in front of them, and the water to recede, in proportion as such works are advanced into the stream. Indeed, it would be no difficult task to construct two piers from the opposite sides of the River so as to narrow the channel to a space capable of only admitting that portion of the water to flow between them, which now

falls into the Hooghly from the hills to the south-west of Burdwan; when the waters of the Ganges would force themselves into the Sea through the main channel and the numerous little nullahs that flow into the Sunderbunds to the east of Calcutta.

The best method of preserving the River in its present state, and of improving its navigation, will be the adoption of every measure tending to increase the flow of water from the Ganges downward, and the tide of the Sea upwards, alternatively; as well as the immediate adoption of some plan to prevent future encroachments on the water naturally appertaining to the River.

The Papers of the current year, detailed a simple way of rendering the Jellingay River navigable at its source, which an Officer adopted, by turning the numerous little streams, into which it had divided itself, into one, and thus, by increasing the body of the water, enabled it to wash away the sand which stopped the progress of his boats.* The late Surveyor General, Lieut.-Col. Colebrooke, whose mind was always devoted to objects connected with the public good, proposed that the Government should construct iron machines,† and have them dragged over the bottom of the Cossimbazar River, at places where the sand, by accumulating, tended to stop up the channel. I am of opinion, that if the machines were not made too heavy, to be raised into an empty boat ascending the stream, that they might have the best effect; and with the assistance of a few convicts they might be worked free of all expence to the Government, for the loaded boats descending the stream, might draw them down, and empty boats ascending carry them up.

A stop should be put to the construction of any more Puckah Ghauts, or if allowed to be constructed, they should not be permitted to jut into the River: the fishermen should be prevented from constructing their wears; and the Bunds to the south of the Ganges, above Calcutta should be limited to the preservation of the principal towns and villages. By these means the waters of the Ganges would be allowed to extend over the country, so as to reach the River Hooghly in the greatest possible quantity.

If such measures are adopted, the navigation of the River Hooghly, may be expected to improve; and if it cannot again recover the state in which it was in the year 1757, it may be expected at least to remain clear for the navigation of the Ships that now visit the Port of Calcutta.

As Puckah Ghauts or Piers for the landing of goods never answer, owing to the receding of the River from them shortly after their construction is completed, and as wooden piles are liable to be destroyed by worms, and cannot be made strong enough to sustain the shock of a heavy Vessel's coming alongside, I would strongly recommend the substitution of a Wharf supported on iron columns, which by not obstructing the flow of the water would preserve its depth, and Ships might at all times deliver their cargoes alongside.

I am, Sir, Your's &c.

Calcutta, Nov. 20, 1819.

NAUTICUS.

Pindarrie Prize Money.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

For the information of your Oude Correspondent, who writes regarding the distribution of Pindarrie Prize Money, I beg leave to acquaint you that the whole amount of that Money is less than 7,000 Rupees; for the principal part of the plunder found in the Pindarrie camps was usually retained by the actual captors, and nothing added to the public stock, except what was derived from the sale of a few tattoos and bullocks, and a small quantity (to save appearances!) of cloth, &c.

As there are at least 3,000 men, besides Officers, entitled to participate in the above immense treasure, your Correspondent could expect very little more than a rupee for his share (supposing him to be any thing below a Field Officer) so I think he might as well agree to give it up to the privates, to whom it would prove of consequence, as it would give each of them nearly half a month's pay and batta. It would be sufficient, at all events, to repay them for the shoes which they wore out in chasing the *Pins*, and which I remember hearing some waggish Sepoys observe could not possibly be replaced out of a dividend which was made upon the spot, on another occasion, in the course of the Pindarrie war; and which gave them about twelve annas a piece, though the Officers declined participating.

As to the Chandah Donation, the very mention of it proves that your Correspondent is not one of the New School, into the breasts of whose disinterested Members such sordid ideas are never permitted to enter; and who will shortly, I expect, proclaim their resolution of giving up their share of the general prize, by the way of giving their Old School brethren a

* See the account of this operation in the Calcutta Journal for Friday, April 16, 1819.—Vol. 3. No. 63, page 156.

† Name of the machine not legible.

‡ Vide the late Discussions in your Journal.

practical proof of their theoretical sincerity in looking upon any thing in the shape of a pecuniary reward as beneath the notice of a Soldier, who is, or ought to be, actuated in the acceptance of a Commission solely by motives of the purest patriotism! I do not see what claim these chivalrous heroes have to pay and batia even, and I think the Honorable Court have a right to deprive them of it at once, agreeably to the reasoning of one of the two Bishops whose opinions King Charles asked respecting his right to his subjects' money. "Your Majesty," said one, "has a most undoubted right to all we possess." The other on being asked to give his sentiments on the subject, very justly observed that he was not prepared to speak generally on so important a question, "but your Majesty," said he, has certainly a right to my reverend Brother's money, for he offers it."

This Chandah Donation would, it is true, give a Subaltern about 700 Rupees, but then such a paltry sum is not worth his acceptance; as indeed the Nagpore Government seem to think, by not intruding it upon us, as they would doubtless have done, had they considered it worth the taking. Let me, therefore, advise your Correspondent to think no more about such a trifle, which has been long since forgotten by people of much greater consequence than he is—to wit, the B. hoonstah—for our Government has nothing to say to it; and let me likewise remind him that his appearing to care about it will be apt to give rise to invidious comparisons between the Bengal Troops and the Swiss Mercenaries. He must accustom himself to get the better of that hankering after *dross* which he now appears to encourage rather than check, as if it once gain the ascendancy over him, there is no saying where it may stop; for he must know as well as I do that "*Crescit amor nummi, quantum ipsa pecunia crescit*;" and we may both live to see the day when the Officers of this Army will be practising usury instead of manœuvres; and be diving "to the bottom of the sea" in search of pearls, or a bag of *Nugguds*, instead of to "bring up drowned Honor by the locks," if such sordid ideas, as those of your Correspondent, be not nipped in the very bud, to effect which is the sole object of

Your money-hating humble servant,

Calcutta, Nov. 22, 1819.

GRATIS.

Military Fund.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

For some time past your Journal has contained Letters in praise of a new MILITARY FUND, which has been recommended to the Army by one of our brother Officers. A number of writers have vied with each other in admiring and lauding this benevolent Plan, and the "amiable and humane young Soldier" who proposed it. Surprise and reproach are pretty freely expressed at the apathy and indifference which can hesitate to carry into effect, so excellent an Institution; and our brother Officers in the upper Provinces must begin to wonder, that while every pen is drawn in favour of this Plan, nothing is done to effect it. On the other hand, we in Calcutta are told by some of these Letter-writers, that a general anxiety prevails among the Army up the Country, to see this Fund established; a statement which, from pretty good information, I will take leave to say, is very greatly exaggerated. I believe the case in the upper Stations is very much the same as here. Men admit, that it would be a fine thing to ensure a handsome provision for their Widows and Orphans, as well as for themselves in sickness, by a trifling Monthly Subscription; but they require some proof, that the thing is practicable. They want to see by what calculation results so different from all their past experience have come out. The most "eloquent pleadings," the most moving and humane sentiments will not suffice. They know well that (as Burke has remarked) "Men do not live upon blotted paper." In a German play (a) there is a scene where two ladies meeting for the first time, at the close of one short scene, start up, and saying "let us swear an eternal friendship" rush into each others arms. So a few inconsiderate writers may exclaim "let us have a public meeting,"—"let the Adjutant General write circular letters,"—"let the vetoes of the Army be collected,"—"let us have a MILITARY FUND!"—Sober and practical men are not so rapid in their conclusions; they desire first to learn whether the wants of existing Institutions are such as to render this New Fund necessary, and in the next place whether it is probable that it will be generally supported, and realize the sanguine hopes of its Projector. To both these questions, the most sensible and best informed men I have seen, answer in the negative, and support their opinion by arguments which carry conviction to my mind. I will endeavour to state them.

First. Much of what has been urged as argument for the establishment of this new plan proceeds from ignorance of the nature and extent of the existing Institutions. Every one who reads Lt. Macnaghen's Letter must be sensible of his benevolent intentions. It bears, however, equally clear marks of haste and of inaccurate information. We are told in the title page, that the BENIGAL MILITARY FUND has for its object THE PROVIDING FOR THE DESTITUTE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF DECEASED SUBSCRIBERS, IN A MORE LIBERAL MANNER THAN WHAT IS NOW DONE BY THE WIDOW AND ORPHAN FUNDS, &c. In the Letter itself, I observe, we

are told, that by establishing this new scheme, we should "be the authors of infinitely greater benefits to one another, and to our Wives and Children, than are derivable from all the other Bengal Funds and Societies put together." There is not, however, one observation in the Letter to shew in what respects the new plan is better than the others. If the writer only means, that the allowances in the Appendix to his Letter are much higher than those fixed (for example) by our Widow's Fund, I would observe, that this depends upon the resources and the stability of the new plan. The true question is not, what it will promise, but what it will be able to perform. Widows, "do not live upon blotted paper;" and, if the Fund becomes bankrupt, they will find little solace in reading their intended liberal incomes in the printed rules.

Above 6 pages, (out of 20 of which the Letter consists,) contain the arguments which the writer has adduced to prove, that no distinction ought to be made in the provision for Eurasian Widows or Children. Some eloquence and reasoning is thrown away here in beseeching the husband to "shield his wife from a destitute widowhood," and in proving the hardships of any distinctions between European and Country-born Widows. But the husband has probably already subscribed to the Widow's Fund, in which no such distinction was ever made. The only enquiry they make into the Widow's claims is to ascertain by the marriage certificate that she was lawfully married to their brother Officer. So liberal a restriction as that adopted at Madras, which shuts out from all benefit, Eurasian Widows, and those who have any mixture of Asiatic blood, even in the third generation, never would have been sanctioned by this Army: I suppose such a regulation is without a parallel, excepting in the Spanish colonies.

Neither is any distinction made by the Orphan Fund in the amount of its provision for illegitimate and legitimate children. The former, indeed, are collected at Kidderpore, while the latter are brought up with their Mothers or nearest relations. It appears from several passages in Lieutenant MacNaghen's pamphlet, that he is quite unaware of the provision which now exists for legitimate children. In a Letter he has since published in the Calcutta Journal, he asserts, that there is none. He must then be ignorant that where the Father has left his Children destitute, the Orphan Fund allows the Mother for their support and education, until they grow up, from £25 to £40 a year for each Child, according to their age. If the Orphans have no Mother living, and no proper guardians, the Managers send them home to be educated at the expense of the Fund. On the other hand it is stated, that the Officers' Subscription of 3, 6, and 9 Rupees, (according to their rank) is more than enough for the support of both the UPPER and LOWER ORPHAN SCHOOL, and that they are possessed of immense Funds over and above all demands, &c. One would think that before addressing the Army through the press, the writer would have taken pains to ascertain the nature of the Funds which his plan was intended to supersede. If he had looked into Henley's Code, he would have discovered (at page 179) that the expense of the Lower Orphan School is entirely borne by Government. The Managers are only the trustees and stewards of its bounty. The attention and valuable time which they bestow upon this excellent Charity is indeed most praise-worthy, and is too little known. They have silently performed their duties, and allowed the bounty of the Fund to flow in its quiet channel. It is now their duty, and it is one they owe not less to themselves than to the Fund, to give greater publicity to its details.

We are told that when this New Fund is established, there will be no more Subscriptions for distressed families. "Frequent claims on our benevolence will no longer wound our feelings." This was a principal motive in the formation of the Orphan Society. (b) It was also one of the very ends which was proposed by the institution of the Widow's Fund, (c) which was set on foot "for a two-fold object, namely, the relief and support of the Widows of Officers and Staff, and to render all public Subscription for such persons in future unnecessary." Yet individuals have frequently neglected to secure even this limited income for their Widows, and have not become Subscribers to that Fund. What security is there, that they will subscribe to the new one?

There remains one other branch of this new scheme, the benefits to be derived by sick Officers proceeding to Europe on slender means. If a great number are anxious to effect this, let them associate and form a joint Society or a Fund for this object. But what purpose is answered by blending it with other Institutions for distinct purposes, and the Funds of which are not more than adequate to their separate ends? Why are the fabrics of the Orphan and Widow's Funds, which have been tried and have stood the shock of years, to be pulled down merely for a more extensive site to the new structure? I shall not trespass on the patience of your readers, by saying any thing farther on this part of the subject, except one remark. There seem to me serious objections to a scheme of this nature to provide by general Subscription, for the personal future wants of individuals, whenever this could be done by their own prudence and economy. It appears from a passage at p. 16 of the pamphlet, that they had been pointed out to the writer, and I think he has not refuted the objection. If some simple plan were devised in the nature of a SAVING BANK, to enable Officers to lay up the 10 or 20 Rupees a month which they

(b) See the original Address to the Public in 1783, in Grace's Code.

(c) See the original proposition for a Widow's Fund, August 7, 1805.

(a) Stella.

could save, until it amounted to some hundreds, and became a sum worth remitting to a house of Agency, or investing in Government Securities, habits of economy and foresight would be nourished in the young, and a far greater benefit be conferred on the Army than would be obtained from any Fund like the one now proposed.

I have endeavoured to shew, that the benefits held out by this scheme, are either delusive or exaggerated. But, besides this, we shall see, that the plan is, under existing circumstances, impracticable. For a little examination will shew, that its funds could not meet the expenses it would have to defray. This part of the subject has been disregarded by the Author, who candidly allows that he has neither ability nor patience for such kind of work. At the same time he is confident, that only let him have a PUBLIC MEETING, and a Committee may be formed who could do all this, and prepare Rules and Regulations too, within a month. We are told indeed, in a general way, that at Madras there is an Army, and a Military Fund, which is flourishing and rich; therefore, in Bengal, where there is an Army, such a Fund would be flourishing too. "There is a river in Macedon, and there is also a river at Monmouth, and there are salmons in both." Truly the resemblance there, was equally clear. If we were to strike off all the illegitimate children of Officers from the books of the Orphan Fund, (leaving them to beg or starve), to strike off all Eurasian Widows from the Widow's Fund, and lessen the Pensions of all Subaltern's Widows who have £63 per annum from any other source, (and of the higher ranks in proportion) we should then bring them nearly to the Madras Plan. We might then no doubt raise the Pensions of those who remained on the books, and have a large surplus income disposable for other objects. But as such alterations would certainly not be approved of, we must pay more money for the more extensive objects we embrace, and consider the Bengal Funds on their present footing, when we enquire what classes would support this new proposal.

In doing so, I shall only assume that to procure general support to a Fund of this nature, the individuals subscribing must see their own advantage in the plan. And this is Lieutenant McNaghten's view also. For he states as his object, that all whose distresses were relieved or whose families were supported might feel that it was only obtaining benefits which they had associated for, and not experience "the galling obligation which is laid upon them by the acceptance of common contributory relief."

Some would unite to ensure a support for their Orphan Children, but as this is already done by the Orphan Fund, and they must subscribe to it, they will not be disposed to join another. Lieutenant McNaghten has, I observe, fallen into a common error, in supposing, that this Society has immense funds over and above its annual expenditure. "But this is not the case. The Printed Statements shew, that in 1817 their expenses here and in England exceeded their receipts by about 4600 Rupees, and they have no reason to expect that their income at the present rate of Subscription will ever do more than meet their expenditure. This is the state of their funds, with the advantage of having a dead stock in houses, ground, furniture, &c. (to the value of about 2 Lacs of Rupees,) which is already paid for. If a Parent wishes to leave his Children something more than this Charity can afford, or he can expect to save, he may add three thousand Rupees to each of their portions, by means of the Laudable or Union Society, at a small expense.

Others who are married, have the farther object of securing a provision for their Widows. But the greater part of these are already Subscribers to the Widow's Fund, and must therefore (by its rules) have either subscribed for 5 years already, or have paid a donation more than equivalent to the amount. Very many of these Officers cannot afford to subscribe to two Funds, and are not likely to give up their claims upon the sober certainties of the one, which they have purchased, for the fine promises of the other. "Half a loaf," says the proverb, "is better than no bread." The Pensions of the Widows Fund are small, but sad experience has shewn that greater cannot be afforded. They set out in 1805, with fixing the monthly contribution of married Subscribers at 12 Rupees for a Major, 8 Rupees for a Captain, and 6 for a Subaltern. The Pensions were to be £200, £150, and £100. This was very fine upon paper. But in practice, the result was this:—A great mortality in the year immediately after the Mahratta war, (such as we have seen after the war now ended,) brought heavier demands upon the Fund than the sanguine calculators had anticipated. In truth they had proceeded too much upon the very same plan that is now proposed. They had "a Meeting at Calcutta," with a Major General in the chair; they passed a string of 27 Resolutions, and elected a Committee "to carry the plan into effect." Mean time, they set to work, and when the necessary calculations were at last made, it was proved that they were bankrupts. The consequence was, that they altered their rates to the present ones, and confined themselves very wisely to do the good that was practicable. By rigidly adhering to this amended plan, they have provided for the stability of the Fund, which has recovered from that rude shock, and become secure. The Managers have now just reason to hope from its present improved state, that in a year or two more they may with perfect safety, propose to the Subscribers either to lower the Subscription or to raise the rate of Pension. I will confidently predict that those who remember the distress and disappointment produced by the failure of the first scheme, will not lend themselves now to support any such rude plan.

The benefits which Officers are to obtain from the Fund in sickness, are squinted and clogged with restrictions, that no one who has been able to save seven or eight thousand Rupees will have any interest in joining it. A Subaltern driven home on sick certificate, has his passage to England paid by the Government; he also would receive from the Fund his passage money back again (1500 Rupees) upon an affidavit that he had not that sum, and 700 Rupees for out-fit in India, if he swore he had not even so much as that. He would also have £50 a year allowed him in addition to his pay, for two years, at home. But if he has subscribed for ten years, and has also unluckily saved 1500 Rupees, he must spend that before he can be entitled to any aid. Now an Officer who has been able to save three thousand Rupees, may do all that the Fund proposes for himself, and if he has nine thousand Rupees he may do it and return to India, with his capital untouched. Officers going to the Cape on sick leave, where Government allow no passage money, receive no aid from this plan.

It may therefore, I think, be anticipated that no Officers who have saved a little money will associate themselves to this Institution. The very young Subalterns, on the other hand, will not be greatly tempted by the prospect of a provision held out for the Wives they may hereafter marry and leave unprovided for.

In his anticipation of co-operation in every way, the Projector is by far too sanguine. He will not find it so easy as he assumes to get "thirteen Officers of the first rank and situation in the Army residing at the Presidency" for his Board of Directors. Many of the Staff Officers here are already Managers of the Orphan or Widow's Fund, and devote to those benevolent Institutions much of the little leisure time which is left them by laborious and regular public duties. If the writer had resided here he might have seen, that it is not very easy to fill up the vacancies in them with Officers who are qualified for the duty, and also willing to undertake it. He has probably by this time learnt, that there is little chance of his new Board being completed.

In stating my sentiments on the value and practicability of this plan, I have used plain and strong language, because it is a matter of great importance, and I am in earnest. If there are really, as we are told, many who are anxious for its establishment, I look upon it as a delusion which ought to be dispelled. I have waited in the expectation that this would be done by abler men. It is incumbent, I think, upon the Officers who reside at the Presidency to shew those who are in Field that it is not from apathy, that a plan asserted to be so pregnant with benefits to them is treated with indifference in Calcutta. To Lieutenant McNaghten's benevolent intentions I willingly do justice. He is evidently an enthusiast in favour of his own plan, and like other enthusiasts is not prepared to weigh with calmness the objections against a favorite scheme. I have endeavoured to state them clearly and fully. Whether they are conclusive or not THE ARMY will judge for themselves. I shall now take leave of the subject with one sentence from the pamphlet itself, in which I entirely concur. "The instituting such a Fund will prove an object of too great moment to be commenced upon without a LONG PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION being given to it, by Officers of all ranks."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Calcutta, Nov. 17, 1819.

A STAFF OFFICER.

Government Orders.

GENERAL ORDERS, BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta, November 12, 1819.

With the sanction of Government, Captain Hervey, of the 7th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry, is appointed to the charge of the men who have volunteered from His Majesty's 21st Light Dragoons for the Bombay Horse Artillery. The detachment is to be held in readiness to embark at the shortest notice. All necessary and prescribed documents are to be made over with the men to Captain Harvey.

The Commander-in-Chief is pleased to promote Jemadar Meer Hyder Ali, of the Ramgurbh Battalion, to be Subadar, and Havildar Bactour Opadiash of the same Corps, to be Jemadar, from the 2nd July 1819, as a mark of His Lordship's approbation of their gallant conduct on service. They are to be borne on the strength of the Battalion as supernumeraries until vacancies occur.

Captain M. C. Paul is removed from the 1st to the 2nd Battalion 8th Regiment.

Captain Shadwell is removed to the 1st Battalion, and Captain Trelawny to the 2nd Battalion, 26th Regiment.

Ensigns Baillie, Heptinstall, and Gordon, doing duty with the 1st Battalion 11th Regiment at Barrackpore, are directed to join and to do duty with the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment.

Head-Quarters, Calcutta, November 13, 1819.

The following removals and appointments of officers to Companies of Artillery are ordered from this date:

Lieutenant H. P. Hughes, from the 1st Company 4th Battalion, to the 2nd Company 1st Battalion.

Lieutenant Vanrenen, from the 6th Company 3rd Battalion, to the 7th Company 3rd Battalion.

Lieutenant Watts, from the 3rd Company 1st Battalion to the 6th Company 3rd Battalion.

2nd Lieutenant Wade is posted in the 7th Company 1st Battalion.

2nd Lieutenant Peter Arnold Tockler, is posted to the 8th Company 1st Battalion.

2nd Lieutenant Augustus Abbott, to the 1st Company 3rd Battalion.

2nd Lieutenant Henry Rutherford, to the 2nd Company 3rd Battalion.

The Companies of Foot Artillery which man the present Field Batteries drawn by horses, to be the 1st Companies of each Battalion, to effect which, the following Companies will be numbered as below, after the first of next month:

The 1st Company 1st Battalion, to be 3rd Company 1st Bat; the 6th Company 3rd Battalion, to be 1st Company 1st Battalion; the 1st Company 3rd Battalion, to be 6th Company 3rd Battalion; the 3rd Company 1st Battalion, to be 1st Company 3rd Battalion.

The Company which by the above arrangement will become the 1st Company Battalion with its Gun Lascar Company, also the horses attached with their harness, will commence their march towards Fattegurh under the command of Captain Shaw on the 10th proximo.

The company to be completed to its full strength by drafts from the two Battalions of Artillery at Dom Dam.

Colonel Hardwick will, by this opportunity, send drafts for the European companies in the field, completing them as far as may be practicable with attention to the strength of the companies at the Head Quarters of the Regiment.

Assistant Surgeon Evans, who came to the Presidency on leave on medical certificate, having reported himself fit for duty, will proceed to Fattegurh in medical charge of Captain Shaw's detachment whence he will join Captain Smith's levy at Mynpoory, to which he stands appointed.

Station orders by Brigadier General Watson, directing Captain Watkins, Quarter-Master of the 1st Battalion 14th N. I. to take charge of office of the Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General, and of the Guide and Intelligence Department, with the Sangor field force, on the 23rd ultimo, upon Captain Hardy's leaving the station, are confirmed.

With the sanction of the Governor-General, the undermentioned non-commissioned officers, who were transferred to the Honourable Company's Service, from His Majesty's 21st Dragoons, from the 20th ultimo, are attached to his Lordship's body guard.

Corporal Dickenson, as gun-corporal.

Serjeant Nunn and Corporal Larkman, to do duty until other wise disposed of.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence:

Surgeon Stanston, European Regiment, from the 25th November to 10th Jan. 1820. To the Presidency, on urgent private affairs.

Lieutenant A. L. Swanton, 1st Battalion 16 Regiment, from 15th December to 1st March 1820. To the Presidency, on urgent private affairs.

(Signed) JAS. NICOL, Adj. Genl. of the Army

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGE.

At Ghazeeapore, on the 31st ultimo, by the Reverend Mr. Palmer, Mr. Jas. Comming Watson, to Mrs. E. Donald.

BIRTHS.

On the 19th instant, the Wife of A. H. Blechynden, Esq. of a Son.

At the house of J. O. Oldham, Esq. Moradabad, on the 7th instant, the Lady of Henry Wood, Esq. of a Son.

At Jaunpore, on the 7th instant, the Lady of Robert Davies, Esq. of a Son.

At Janjemow, on the 6th instant, the Lady of J. M. Sinclair, Esq. of a Son.

At Cawnpore, on the 2nd instant, Mrs. Henry Orde, of a Son.

At Cawnpore, on the 31st ultimo, the Lady of Captain E. B. Craigie, Deputy Judge Advocate, of a Daughter.

At Madras, on the 31st ultimo, the Lady of the Rev. W. A. Keating, of a Son.

At Madras, on the 30th ultimo, the Lady of R. Clarke, Esq. of a Son.

At Bombay, on the 23rd ultimo, the Lady of S. Babington Esq. of a Son.

At Colombo, on the 11th ultimo, Mrs. Dionisius De Neys, of a still-born Male Child.

DEATHS.

At Pooree, near Cuttack, on the 29th ultimo, Lieutenant Laurence Durack, 22nd Regiment of Native Infantry.

At Royapooram, on the 24th ultimo, at the house of Mr. Charles Hancock, Mrs. A. C. De Atida, aged 87 years, relict of the late Mr. Charles De Atida.

At Colombo, on the 12th ultimo, of the small-pox, Jeanne Françoise Henrietta, eldest Daughter of C. A. Tonon, Esq. leaving her disconsolate parents to lament her irreparable and untimely loss.

EUROPE MARRIAGE.

At Hayes, Middlesex, on the 11th of June, Major M. H. Court, of the Honourable Company's Madras Artillery, to Emily Susan, youngest daughter of the late Archdale Wilson Taylor, Esq.

Administrations to Estates.

Charles Holland, late of Calcutta, Veterinary Surgeon—D. Heming, Esq.

Frederick Le Vaillant, late of Calcutta—D. Heming, Esq.

Lieutenant Allen Stewart, H. M.'s 17th Foot—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Lieutenant Charles Patch, late of the H. C.'s Artillery—John Palmer, Esq.

John Melvill, Esq. late of Calcutta—Patrick Maitland, Esq. of the Firm of Messrs. Palmer and Co.

John Mitford Rees, Esq. late of the H. C.'s Civil Service, to William Edward Rees, Esq. the sole Executor.

Thomas Leake, late of Bancoorah, Surgeon in the H. C.'s Service—John Macketchie, Esq.

Captain Roderick Macqueen, late of H. M.'s 78th Regt.—Jas Calder, Esq.

Charles Bird, Esq. late of the H. C.'s Civil Service—William Wilberforce Bird, Esq. of Benares.

Richard Twidal, late a Serjeant-Major in the H. C.'s Service—Thomas Bracken, Esq. of the firm of Messrs. Alexander and Co.

Lieutenant Peter William Campbell, late of the H. C.'s Service, to Alexander Campbell, of the firm of Messrs. Gould and Campbell.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

(None)

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destinations
Oct. 21	Williams	Amercn.	B. Andrews	Marblehead
21	Albion	British	H. Stewart	Liverpool

BOMBAY ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Oct. 23	Bussorah Merchant	British	H. Humphreys	Bussorah	Oct. 3
23	Vestal	British	Lt. R. Watson	Bushire	—
24	Chaucer	Arab	D. Mohammed	Sarat	—

Nautical Notices.

The Honourable Company's ships Minerva and Rose, Indiamen, are to be dispatched on the 5th of December.

The Quail, tender, was in Plymouth harbour in June, undergoing the operation of injection, with a substance extracted from coal-tar, recommended by Mr. Seppings, for preventing the dry rot. The construction of the London, 98, building at Plymouth, has been altered four times. She is now longer, several timbers than was originally intended. The Royal Charlotte, yacht, at Deptford, was ordered to be broken up, and a new one to bear the same name, to be built at Woolwich.

Commercial Reports.

(From the Bombay Gazette of the 27th Oct.)

	Sa. Q.
Cotton, Ahmood, per candy of 21 mounds or 7 cwt.	220 0
Ahmood Toomil,	250 0
Bownaghur,	190 0
Bownaghur Toomil,	215 0
Limree Wudwan,	195 0
Limree Toomil,	220 0
Kutch,	180 0
Kutch Toomil,	200 0
Mangroole and Pore,	170 0
Spanish Dollars, per hundred	220 2
German Crowns,	212 2
Venetians,	490 0
Gubbas,	478 0

Remittance to England at 6 months, 2s 2d per rupee

Freight to England, dead weight, £4 per ton

Loose Freight, £5 per ton

Exchange on Calcutta, Bombay Rs. 100 per 100 Sicca, on Madras.

Cotton still keeps up, but as the loading of the Company's Ships for the Eastern passage to China, will soon commence, we expect the holders will make some abatement.

With respect to European articles of general consumption, an absolute famine prevails.

Wheat has again risen to an enormous price, and it is fortunate for us, that it is not the staple food of the inhabitants.

(From the Ceylon Government Gazette, October 16.)

Prices of Remittances, at the Sale held on the 15th of October.

Bills on England, at 30 Days sight, Rds. 13-0 to 14-2 per Pound Sterling.

Bills on Madras, 19 to 19½ Fanams per Madras Rupee.

Printed at the Union Press, in Garstin's Buildings, near the Bankshall and the Exchange.